

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 13, lines 16-21 with the following amended paragraph:

Another object of the invention is an App strain characterized because it has a deletion in nucleotides 886 to 945 of the *apxIA* gene, that code the second transmembrane of the ApxI exotoxin, deposited in the Colección Española de Cultivos Tipo (Spanish Collection of Type Cultures), Universidad de Valencia Edificio de Investigación Campus de Burjasot 46100 Burjasot (Valencia) Spain, with the registration number CECT 5985 deposited on January 10, 2002, according to the Treaty of Budapest of 28th April 1977, or a mutant thereof.

Please replace the paragraph at page 13, lines 22-28 with the following amended paragraph:

Another object of the invention is an App strain characterized by having a deletion of nucleotides 886 to 945 of the *apxIA* gene that code the second transmembrane of the ApxI exotoxin and besides a deletion of nucleotides 886 to 945 of *apxIIA* gene that code the second transmembrane of the ApxII exotoxin deposited in the Colección Española de Cultivos Tipo (Spanish Collection of Type Cultures), Universidad de Valencia Edificio de Investigación Campus de Burjasot 46100 Burjasot (Valencia) Spain, with the registration number CECT 5994 deposited on June 11, 2002, according to the Budapest Treaty, or a mutant thereof.